

ADMIN RECORD



Rocky Mountain
Remediation Services, L.L.C.
... protecting the environment

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 21, 1995 5400.1

TO: C. S. Evans, Remediation Services, Bldg. T893A, X3199

FROM: *M.B. Murdock*
M. B. Murdock, Ecology, Bldg. T130B, X3560

SUBJECT: U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOLLOW-UP VISIT TO INSPECT
ELECTROCUTION PROTECTION INSTALLED ON PLANT POWER
INSTALLATIONS - MBM -110 - 95

On November 21, 1995 U. S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) enforcement personnel Leo Suazo and Roger Gephart visited the Rocky Flats site to inspect protective devices installed to correct electrocution hazards for wildlife. Dyncorp's Plant Power personnel, specifically Mark Neeley, have been very proactive in curing electrocution hazards where they have been identified. Action in this regard was started when the electrocution of ravens was discovered at some power installations earlier this year. A subsequent great horned owl electrocution on Public Service, Inc.'s lines produced a site visit from Mr. Suazo and Mr. Gephart on July 25, 1995. During this visit, the USFWS personnel inspected some problem areas, and recommended actions to protect raptors and other migratory birds from electrocution. At that time, they stated they were pleased that the Site was actively trying to solve the electrocution hazards, and offered to help with any expertise they could make available.

The November 21 site visit was a follow-up visit to inspect the steps that have been taken to date. The USFWS personnel inspected the sites where the ravens were electrocuted, visited the Public Service, Inc. installation where the owl was killed, and visited other sites where hazards were identified and rectified. During the tour several powerline styles were pointed out to the USFWS personnel to have them evaluate whether there was a hazard present. Most installations meet the separation and insulation requirements for raptor protection. The area with the greatest potential for problems is within the Industrial Area where old installations require additional protection. Several of these have been revised to reduce risk, however, the USFWS suggested the addition of perch inhibitors at one location where new protection has already been added. This device is intended to discourage owls from perching near uninsulated switches.

Mr. Suazo indicated that he has been pleased with the cooperation he has received from site personnel (Neeley and Murdock), and is satisfied with the corrective actions taken to date. He indicated to Cheryl Row (DOE/RFFO) and Phil Hartung (DOE/RFFO) that no formal action was necessary, but that he would like copies of the before and after photos taken of the offending power installations to document in his records what corrective actions had been taken by Plant Power. He also requested an estimate of the cost of these corrective actions. Mr. Suazo also indicated that it was his expectation that Ecology personnel, represented at the meeting by Larry Woods (K-H) and Marcia Murdock (RMRS) would continue to identify problem areas, and communicate that information to Mr. Neely. Ecology and Mr. Neeley are expected to develop solutions for these potential problems.

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A related issue that was also discussed was the possibility of leaving some abandoned power poles as perch poles for raptors. Both Ms. Row and the USFWS representatives thought Mr. Neeley's suggestion was a good one and that it should be explored. Mr. Neeley pointed out that there could be a considerable cost benefit to leaving some poles in place. The cost of removing, and then landfilling them is considerable. Ecologically, it makes sense to retain some of these poles as artificial perches. Ms. Murdock suggested to Ms. Row that nest platforms might also be installed as an added benefit. Ms. Row conveyed this suggestion to the USFWS personnel, and they thought it also might provide some benefit for the raptors. Mr. Neeley and the ecologists will further explore this idea for cost savings and ecological benefit.

Mr. Suazo closed the meeting by telling Ms. Row that it was not his intention to come to the site to write tickets. He indicated that his letter on the owl electrocuted on the Public Service, Inc. installation was intended as a report of findings, not a Notice of Violation. He reiterated that he has been pleased with the cooperation he has received from site personnel, and that the corrective measures to date have been very satisfactory. He would like to be appraised of new installations so he can identify potential problems for us prior to construction. Mr. Suazo would like informal reports and photographs of any further corrective actions taken.

Should you have comments or require further information, please call me at extension 3560.

MBM:mbm

cc:

M. E. Neeley
J. D. Krause
T. R. Ryon
L. E. Woods
ERPD Records File (2)